

Music & Media Year-End Awards

For the seventh time, Music & Media presents its year-end awards, based on statistics from the Coca-Cola Eurochart Hot 100 Singles and European Top 100 Albums. See page 20 for separate year-end EHR statistics.

by Machgiel Bakker

The biggest musical surprise of 1991 was the final breakthrough of Athens, Georgia band R.E.M. With the I.R.S. label having carefully built up the band's profile since their debut album *Chronic Town* in 1982, R.E.M. switched to Warner Brothers in 1988 and released *Green*. However, it was this year's *Out Of Time* album that brought the band the final pop mainstream crossover.

Fuelled by the hit single *Losing My Religion*, the album has sold more than three million copies to date in Europe and this was achieved without touring or special European promo dates. Other singles taken off the album include *Shiny Happy People* and *Radio Song*.



R.E.M., top album and group of the year

The album stayed at the helm of M&M's European Album Top 100 for 13 weeks in a row, making it the longest consecutively-charting number one album of this year. It hit the top position in the UK, France, Italy, Holland, Ireland, Austria, Greece and Portugal and was top five in Germany, Spain, Belgium, Norway and Switzerland.

The number two year-end album is Roxette's *Joyride*. So far, EMI has released no less than four singles from the album, and all of them have made an impact on the charts. The label kicked off with the title track, which was number one in the Coca-Cola Eurochart Hot 100 Singles for 10 weeks, making it the second-longest chart-topper of the year,

following Bryan Adams' (*Everything I Do*) *I Do It For You* (18 weeks).

Extensive touring and promotional schedules, coupled with follow-up single releases like *Fading Like A Flower (Everytime You Leave)*, *The Big L* and the recent *Spending My Time*, propelled Joyride to its position as one of the most consistent-selling albums of 1991 in Europe—to date, three million copies. The current success of the Swedish duo proves that a careful and tenacious cross-border promotion schedule can turn mainland European artists in global superstars.

Like last year, 1991 was overall a good year for continental European acts. Only in recent years have mainland European artists managed to break albums out of their respective national borders. A European act's longevity is better proven by its capability of charting an album abroad than the accidental single. Whereas last year's year-end chart featured one European artist in the top 10 (Eros Ramazzotti), this year there are three—Roxette, Scorpions and Enigma.

German rock act Scorpions enjoyed one of the most surprising comebacks of this year. The glasnost-inspired single *Wind Of Change* managed to stay in the chart for 47 weeks (and is still on at presstime), breaking the former 1988 record held by Black's *Wonderful Life* (46 weeks). After a resounding success on the continent, the single started a second life after finally breaking into the UK charts.

The album from which the single was taken, *Crazy World*, sold over five million copies worldwide and is number six in the year-end album ranking.

Another German act that fared well—and which can claim being the most successful debut of 1991—is the Michael Cretu-led project Enigma. Precipitated by the eight-week Eurochart topper *Sadness Part 1*, the Gregorian-house style quickly caught Europe by fire. The album *MCMXC A.D.* ranks as the seventh-best charted year-end album of 1991.

Apart from the above, the year-end top 10 is dominated by "Best Of" albums, including those of Elton John, Phil Collins and Eurythmics.

Year-End Singles

While singles sales show an overall downfall in general, Bryan Adams has been refuting all trends by releasing a single this year that is likely to end up being one of the best-selling singles of all-time. With an estimated eight million copies sold worldwide, (*Everything I Do*) *I Do It For You* dominated all worldwide charts, including the Eurochart Hot 100. Here follows a summary of Adams' main chart feats during 1991:

* The single entered the Eurochart at number nine in July and hit number one in its fourth week. It stayed in the pole position

for 18 weeks in a row (Michael Jackson's *Black Or White* broke that tie), breaking the record that Kaoma's *Lambada* formerly held (13 weeks).

* The single went to number one in 14 European countries. The only markets where Adams did not make the top were Italy and Spain.

* Adams is the first male solo artist to top the year-end Eurochart. Leaders in previous years were either groups or female vocalists. Since 1985, these include: USA For Africa's *We Are The World*, Madonna's *Papa Don't Preach*, Madonna's *La Isla Bonita*, Kylie Minogue's *I Should Be So Lucky*, Kaoma's *Lambada* and last year's *Nothing Compares 2 U* by Sinead O'Connor.

* The single spent 16 weeks at number one in the UK, the longest ever.

* Sales in the UK exceed the 1.5 million mark, the first million-seller since German singer Jennifer Rush's *The Power Of Love* in 1985.

* In Holland, it has been at number one for 12 weeks, breaking the former record held by child star Heintje's 1968 *Ich Bau Der Ein Schloss* (I'll Build You A Castle).

* With 11 weeks on top of the Belgian chart, it managed to outdo the former 10-week record by Boney M's *Rivers Of Babylon*.

* In Norway, the single spent 17 weeks on top, making it the best-selling single since Scottish act Nazareth's *Love Hurts*.



Bryan Adams, top single and male artist of the year

Top 3 Female Artists (Albums)

1. Madonna (Sire)
2. Whitney Houston (Arista)
3. Cher (Geffen)

Top 3 Female Artists (Singles)

1. Cher (Epic)
2. Crystal Waters (A&M)
3. Madonna (Sire)

Top 3 Male Artists (Albums)

1. Elton John (Rocket)
2. Phil Collins (Virgin/WEA)
3. Sting (A&M)

Top 3 Male Artists (Singles)

1. Bryan Adams (A&M)
2. Zucchero (London)
3. Vanilla Ice (SBK)

Album Sales Top 3 1991

1. REM - *Out Of Time* (Warner Brothers)
2. Roxette - *Joyride* (EMI)
3. Elton John - *The Very Best Of* (Rocket)

Singles Sales Top 3 1991

1. Bryan Adams - (*Everything I Do*) *I Do It For You* (A&M)
2. Scorpions - *World Of Change* (Mercury)
3. Enigma - *Sadness Part 1* (Virgin)

Top 3 Debut Albums

1. Enigma - *MCMXC A.D.* (Virgin)
2. Seal - *Seal* (ZTT/WEA)
3. The KLF - *The White Room* (KLF Communications)

Top 3 Debut Singles

1. Enigma - *Sadness Part 1* (Virgin)
2. Crystal Waters - *Gypsy Woman* (A&M)
3. Seal - *Crazy* (ZTT/WEA)

Top 3 Groups (Albums)

1. Scorpions (Mercury)
2. Roxette (EMI)
3. Guns N' Roses (Geffen)

Top 3 Groups (Singles)

1. REM (Warner Brothers)
2. Roxette (EMI)
3. Eurythmics (RCA)

Top 3 (Mainland) European Albums

1. Roxette - *Joyride* (EMI)
2. Scorpions - *Crazy World* (Mercury)
3. Enigma - *MCMXC A.D.* (Virgin)

Top 3 (Mainland) European Singles

1. Scorpions - *World Of Change* (Mercury)
2. Enigma - *Sadness Part 1* (Virgin)
3. Roxette - *Joyride* (EMI)

National Best Sellers (Albums)

- Germany: Scorpions - *Crazy World* (Mercury)
 UK: Elton John - *The Very Best Of* (Rocket)
 France: Patrick Bruel - *Alors Regarde* (RCA)
 Italy: Zucchero Fornaciari - *Zucchero* (Polydor/London)
 Sweden: Roxette - *Joyride* (EMI)
 Spain: Mecano - *Aidalai* (Ariola)
 Belgium: Vaya Con Dios - *Night Owls* (Ariola)

National Best Sellers (Singles)

- Germany: Scorpions - *World Of Change* (Mercury)
 UK: Seal - *Crazy* (ZTT/WEA)
 France: Mylene Farmer - *Desenchantée* (Polydor)
 Italy: Zucchero Fornaciari - *Senza Una Donna* (Polydor)
 Sweden: Roxette - *Joyride* (EMI)
 Spain: Mecano - *Une Femme Avec Une Femme* (Ariola)
 Belgium: Technotronic feat. Reggie - *Move That Body* (ARS)

Best Selling Classical Album

- Carreras, Domingo, Pavarotti - *In Concert* (Decca)

The year-end charts are based on statistics from the Coca-Cola Eurochart Hot 100 Singles and the European Top 100 Albums from November 24, 1990 to November 16, 1991. Each week, records accumulate a certain number of chart points, based on position and territory. These have been added over a 12-months period and the final ranking is determined by the total amount of accumulated points.